

# western cape scouter



December 2023





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## editor's desk

Make sure you read about South Africa's first girl Springbok Scout in the story "From the Archives". Congratulations to both 2nd Plumstead who celebrated 90 years of Scouting, while 2nd Bergvliet celebrated 60 years this year.



As always, your articles are always of interest to the Western Cape Scouter. Email me at [nigel.forshaw@scouts.org.za](mailto:nigel.forshaw@scouts.org.za).

Many thanks to all those who wrote articles.

For all those who celebrate Christmas may you have a very Happy Christmas. Happy New year to you all and wishing you a great and safe festive season.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter



# regional commissioner's reflections

What a year 2023 has been.

The saying goes that time flies when you are having fun. If that's true, then 2023 must have been a fun-filled year. We've seen phenomenal growth over the past year – Western Cape has shown greater growth than any other Region in the country. We were unfortunately dealt a bitter blow when the Government slashed funding to all its programmes by 20%. This impacted the projected growth of Scouting in Schools for 2024. The upside of this story is that although all other



programmes run by the Department of Culture and Sport WC - "Year Beyond", were slashed. Scouting in Schools were provided with some additional funding for limited growth. This will allow for some expansion in Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and South Cape, which is indicative of the status of this programme. The Scouting in School programme has surpassed all expectations in that in 2023, we expanded the programme via a 3rd party agency in the Southern Cape, called Womb to Tomb. We look forward to further expansion of this programme in the years ahead.

Community Scouting in the Western Cape is also on a growth trajectory. We are in the process of growing groups in Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, Gugulethu and Langa. We have also broken into new territory on the West Coast and will be forming a West Coast district consisting of Langebaan, Atlantis, Darling and will also be exploring expansion into Vredenburg.

Our staff have really provided awesome service over the years. Kuba has been at Hawequas for 10 years. We have seen phenomenal changes to Hawequas over the past 10 years. The ones that stand out the most, are the Terrace ablutions, the Campsites developed in the forest and the Buchu plantation. We would like to thank Kuba for his unselfish service to Hawequas and look forward to many more years with Kuba at the helm at Hawequas.

We bid farewell to two stalwarts of the Western Cape this year. Paddy Milner completed his 10 year stint as Regional Commissioner. Paddy, together with the Regional team – especially Frank Peart (who has passed on), took the Region out of the red and placed us in a healthy financial position. Paddy is also known as "Dr Revit" in scouting circles – the initiative that ushered in a united "Purple" identity to unite a rather fragmented South African Scouting Community. Paddy has not left us completely but plays a critical role in the Scouting in Schools programme, liaising with the Western Cape Government and Department of Culture and Sport. We thank Paddy for his ongoing support in the Region.

Aussie Raad has stepped down from his role as Property Manager of the Western Cape. Aussie ran a tight ship over the past 12 or so years, changing the face of properties in the Western Cape – particularly our campsites. Hawequas, Gilray and Appleton changed wardens under his watch and we've seen a great improvement at Hawequas and Appleton. Unfortunately Gilray has been impacted by a number of break-ins and vandalism. We owe Aussie a deep debt of gratitude for his undying



support, unselfishly dipping into his company resources to ensure that our properties were taken care of.

Summer is upon us and schools have closed. Its time to head for the mountains and the vleis. Enjoy your summer camps, sailing and hiking and remember to be safe out there. BPs words could not be truer when he said: "A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room."

Finally, thank you to all our Volunteers for the awesome work that they continue to do to ensure that quality scouting is delivered in our Region. Enjoy some downtime with your family and loved ones – best wishes for Christmas to those who are celebrating and a prosperous new year to all.

Nimmy Abrahams - Regional Commissioner

## **gilray fire**

It is indeed disappointing and sad that a fire at Gilray did a lot of damage to the Charles Thebus hall in the last week.

We need to be mindful of the fact that the hall was hired out and now these folk are no longer able to make use of this hall. In addition, the income for renting out the hall is now lost to the Region.

It is particularly sad for me in that I spent many hours in the hall running adult courses, leading training sessions, attending meetings and using the hall as a base for the Hike Leader badge course.

The hall has been used for so many other scouting activities which are just too numerous to mention.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter





# 1st rocklands news



Our District had a joint Indigenous Tree planting event in Westridge Gardens during the month of October. 1st Rocklands and 1st Westridge took part. The event was in partnership with the City of Cape Town, Parks and Recreation.

1st Rocklands Group ran a programme where some Grannies came out to the Pack meeting to teach Cubs how to sew. The Cubs had to sew on a button and badge on to their Campfire Blankets and earned an extra badge in the process. This was seen as a recruitment drive. The Grannies Club showed an interest in the Cub activities and some new Cubs are hoped to be recruited next year.

Two of 1st Rocklands young Scouts participated in the Orienteering Competition, the first time since the Group was restarted. They were super excited and what an experience it was. Thanks for the encouragement of other scouters. Thanks again for the opportunity and to learn a new skill.

The Mitchells Plain District painted Westridge Gardens Purple on the 4 October being 1st Rocklands and 1st Westridge.

Fun has had with indigenous Games in Westridge Gardens being played. This involved Stick Fighting, Morabara, Ncuva and Five Stones.

Annsley Spies - Pack Scouter 1st Rocklands





# 1st fish hoek raft exploits

On the 4 November, 1st Fish Hoek Sea Scouts attended the "Anything that Floats" event at the False Bay Yacht Club. The event's goal was to raise much needed funds for the NSRI. The troop gathered the night before to design and build the raft. On the Saturday, 14 various rafts arrived ready to compete in the cold waters of False Bay. There were two youth teams including ours.



The team of 8 juniors raced their way through three heats and eventually came 3rd overall, with NSRI coming 2nd and the coaches from Surf Emporium coming 1st.

The crowd were impressed by the skill and enthusiasm of the scouts, who in turn were very happy with their placing. The scouts are looking forward to competing again next year.

Peter Nielsen - Troop Scouter 1st Fish Hoek





# from the archives

## South Africa's first girl Springbok Scout - 2002



From a cutting in the Scout Heritage Archives

Anrea Booth, a member of 1st Strand Girls Troop became the first girl in South Africa to gain the highest award in Scouting just before her eighteenth birthday in July 2002. As Scouting had only been open to girls for just under four years it was quite an achievement to reach that goal.

She had been a member of the Brownies and Guides for seven years and her younger brother was already a Scout so she did have an idea of what it entailed. Andrea became very enthusiastic about her Scouting and soon her uniform sleeve was sporting many badges, advancement and interest. One of the badges she found most interesting was the First Aid one and her interest in that led to her choice of career as she is at present studying nursing at Stellenbosch university.

It was evident soon after Andrea joined Scouts that she has the dedication which she will require to follow her chosen career as she soon became determined to achieve Scouting's highest award. It was not plain sailing all the time, she even had to repeat her Springbok hike because she and her fellow Scouts chose to sleep in a derelict building instead of under canvas on a very wet night but she was undaunted by set-backs and kept her eye strictly on target.

There have been some amusing moments too in Andrea's quest for Springbok. Her community project organising a team to spend forty hours on clearing and maintenance of the local hospital grounds and during one of the sessions they were approached by para-medics who explained that they had just brought in a patient who had accidentally amputated part of his finger with a chain saw. Unfortunately, the para-medics had not had time to search for the missing joint and asked the Scouts if they would go to the scene of the accident (not too far away) and try to locate it. The search was successful and soon after the patient and his finger were successfully re-united - just another example of a good deed done by Scouting!

Andrea is naturally fairly shy and quiet and I think her most embarrassing moment was when, at the 2002 Area Awards Ceremony the Chief Scout asked her to stand up so that all could see and congratulate South Africa's first girl Springbok. She may have been embarrassed but all the rest of us were immensely proud of her.

There will be many more Springbok girls in the future but Andrea will always be the first.

Margaret de la Rosa - District Commissioner Helderberg (Ed. In 2002)



# conservation badge course



The Conservation badge course was recently run at Hawequas and attracted a huge number of Scouts, being 75 in total who attended. Although it is really fantastic to have such interest shown by mostly junior Scouts, it did make it rather busy for the staff. As a result, two courses are therefore scheduled for 2024.

The course teamed up with a "Service Day for Hawequas" where Troop s and Rovers were invited to assist in an alien hack to remove Pines and Hakea. 1st Muizenberg, 1st Belhar and 1st Durbanville all had representation at the hack and we had 100 people at work and a significant area/slope was cleared. The Fynbos conveyed its thanks to this great team. There is still much to be done and plenty of scope for further hacks. I am told that Kuba Miszewski received favourable comment from locals who make use of the north and south circular routes.

We were most fortunate to host The Cape Leopard Trust and welcomed Dr Kay Williams and Andrea Schnetler-Niddrie who gave presentations on the impact of snares and how to find them and remove them from the veld. Can you see the snare in the right hand photo?

Scouts learnt about the Outdoor Code, alien plants and bio-control, the water cycle, solar cooking, using the iNaturalist phone app, soil





erosion and climate change.

A bio-control agent being *Dasineura rubiformis* is a small gall midge and is limiting seed production of Black Wattle at Hawequas. This photo (right) of the resultant galls was taken at Hawequas in March 2021.

Many thanks to our staff who were Prof Tony Rebelo, Apiwe Ntunja, Terrance Ievers, Jonathan Webb, Orsella and Karlia Schneeberger, Charles, Samantha and Sebastian Rouse and supported by John Wilson, Kuba Miszewski and Haggis Potter.

Nigel Forshaw - Conservation Badge Course Leader





# lino at helderberg

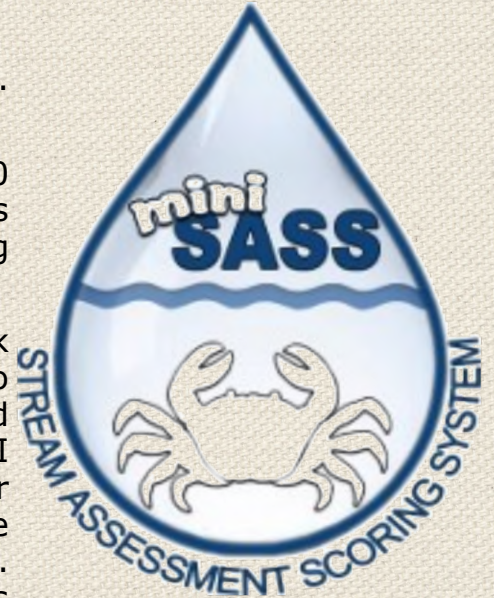
Dear Hathi and Nic

My name is Lino I am the member of 1st Strand Cubs.  
I'm in green six and I am the sixer.

On the 12 of November 2023 at 09:30 myself and 10 other 1st Strand cubs members went on a walk at Helderberg Nature reserve.

We first went to the map board to look at the route that we were going to take. We went to the lake we stopped there to do MiniSASS investigation. I

caught a dragonfly and a baby fish or frog after 30 or 50 minutes then we looked at what we found after that signed the paper for what we found. Before we went fishing we saw a lot of yellow birds



some were big and some were small.

On the left picture it's me, Raven and Emily we took off our shoes and went into the water and started fishing for bugs as we were busy with our miniSASS investigation and we all caught bugs.

The second picture is us and our Hathi before going to the lake to fish.

I had so much fun and learned a lot about fishing and type of birds.

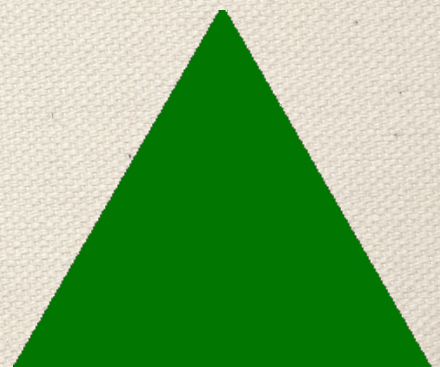


Goodbye Hathi

From Linozuko

Sixer of green six

(Ed. information about stream assessment (miniSASS) may be found at <https://minisass.org>)





# 1st strand cub camp

1st Strand Cub Camp 29-30 September 2023 at 1st Strand Scout Hall.

The afternoon when I got to the hall, I had to unload food, water, my clothes, sleeping bag. The other cubs arrive my six helps me set up the flag, wolf, rock and skin. Soon it was time to do flag break and do two investitures and one of them is in my six named Jasper.

After flag break we play "Bat's and Moths". Gold wolves tried to make a nature trail. The cubs ate spaghetti bolognese.

Scouts built and fired a catapult we also fire. We looked at the moon. The cubs made some waffles and got ice-cream.

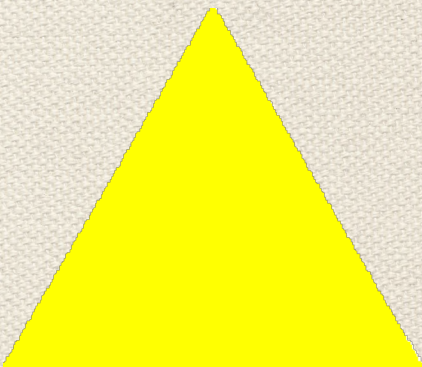
Talk about endangered species. So went to bed in the hall because outside was raining and flooded so we couldn't camp in tents.

Saturday morning the cubs ate cereal. We played invasive plant species game for the nature challenge.

Then we made nets for the miniSASS badge. We made keyrings and they were awesome to make. We draw dioramas and tie dye cutlery bags. We made noodles and eggs.

Cleaned the hall and went home.

Noah Britz - 1st Strand cubs Sixer of yellow six.





# table bay district orienteering

On Friday 13 October, 5 troops in the Table Bay District came together in Burgundy Estate to compete in our annual District Orienteering Competition. The 11 patrols of 4 to 8 scouts were tested in 4 categories of orienteering related challenges.

During the first hour of the competition, teams completed 3 tasks:

- Complete a 16-point compass rose
- Draw and identify topographic map symbols
- Plot bearings on a map of the area to scale

Afterwards, the teams were given their final task; Go find the hidden markers! With their new maps in hand, patrols had 10 minutes to plan their routes, after which they were free to go.

There were 16 controls hidden around Burgundy Estate and the patrols only had 1 hour to find them and return back, or suffer a large point penalty. Fortunately, the new map they received had accurate locations of the controls, similar to the Regional Orienteering Competition. At 20:30, most teams were back, safe and sound and were awaiting the judges' final results.

After some not-so-quick maths by the judges, the final scores were tallied and presented at final parade. Well done to 1st Blaauwberg team 1 for winning, with 76 points!

Team no.	Name	Position	Score
1	1st Table View 1	4	64
2	1st Blaauwberg 1	1	76
3	1st Monte Vista 1	9	49
4	1st Monte Vista 2	3	67
5	1st Milnerton 1	2	71
6	1st Milnerton 2	10	46
7	1st Milnerton 3	11	18
8	1st Bothasig 1	6	57
9	1st Bothasig 2	8	51
10	1st Bothasig 3	6	57
11	1st Blaauwberg 2	5	61

Well done to all the scouts participating and a big thanks to the troop scouters who were willing to help run bases and be marshals. A final big thanks to my fellow Rovers helping me, Tanna and Joel!

Ashley Minshall - Table Bay Rover and ATS 1st Milnerton







# meerkat joint camp

Upon arrival, the campsite buzzed with activity as everyone set up their tents and took the opportunity to get acquainted, especially since all the Meerkats were in mixed burrows. After the camp setup, the Meerkats embarked on a nature-friendly project, creating Bug Hotels to give back to the environment. Following a quick hot dog lunch, the group enjoyed a leisurely walk to the tidal pools for an afternoon of sun and water.

With the sun-kissed and water-refreshed spirits, the Meerkats gathered for a snack, showcasing their



culinary skills by preparing delicious fruit kebabs for everyone. The Meerkats then relished some much-needed free playtime before crafting beautiful lanterns in preparation for the night walk.

The camp's highlight unfolded around the campfire, where everyone enthusiastically participated in songs, from the Zombie tune to the Muffin Man. The warm glow of the braai fires brought everyone together, setting the stage for an incredible supper, including the essential s'mores.

As night fell, the Meerkats armed themselves with torches, headlamps, and lanterns, embarking on an adventurous night walk. Equipped with scorpion torches, they eagerly hunted for critters, the excitement palpable in the air.

Morning arrived too soon, with everyone up bright and early. Breakfast, expertly handled by the responsible parents, featured delightful flapjacks accompanied by a mixed fruit salad, syrup, and leftover chocolate sauce from the s'mores.



With breakfast concluded, the day kicked off with Meerkats engaging in pioneering activities using gummy sweets and toothpicks, while their instructors tackled real pioneering outside,





a lookout tower and a swing.

The camp concluded with traditional 'boere sport' games, with the tug of war stealing the show. In a hilarious twist, the final event pitted Scouters and parents against each other, resulting in a mid-pull rope snap that sent everyone falling like dominos - a sight that brought great amusement to the

Meerkats.

The camp wrapped up on a high note with a spirited rendition of the Meerkat song, echoing through the campsite as everyone bid farewell to an unforgettable experience.

The Meerkat Camp of 2023 was a testament to the remarkable collaboration and teamwork displayed by the Scouters across the four dens. From the opening of camp until the heartwarming goodbyes, the atmosphere was filled with laughter, joy, and the creation of lasting memories. The children relished every moment, and the pervasive smiles were a



testament to their enjoyment.

Witnessing parents and children working together harmoniously was a delight. The shared happiness during the flapjack sessions, where excitement lit up their faces, was a particular highlight. The seamless collaboration of all Scouting levels contributed to the creation of an extraordinary camp experience.





The interaction between Scouts and Meerkats was a beautiful sight. The admiration the younger ones held for the older scouts was endearing. This experience heightened my respect for the Scouting movement as I witnessed the impactful dedication and involvement of these teenagers in shaping the next generation of scouts.

Another remarkable aspect was the rapid and deep connections formed in both Meerkats and Scouts. The unity was so strong that without their group scarves, it was challenging to discern which child belonged to which group. The profound friendships forged in such a short time left me in awe.



Reflecting on these moments, I couldn't help but imagine how much better our world would be if adults embraced the same spirit of collaboration, camaraderie, and unity that I witnessed during the Meerkat Camp. The Scouters' dedication to fostering a positive and inclusive environment was truly inspiring, setting an example for us all.

Thank you to 1st Muizenberg, 1st Fish Hoek, 1st Durbanville, and 1st Bothasig Scouters, Scouts, Parents, Meerkats, and siblings for the unforgettable memories forged at camp.

Marihett Bredenkamp - Den Scouter 1st Muizenberg





# scouts "on the street"

On 25 November a small group of scouts from First Pinelands set up a stall at the Observatory Streetopia Festival to raise public awareness about Scouting.

The Streetopia Festival is a community-run event coordinated by AfrikaBurn along with local artists and Observatory residents.

This was a great opportunity for us, as Streetopia is unique in its ability to create a place where locals can share their passion on the street with the public.



We had lots of fun setting up a stall where we could display aspects of Scouting such as pioneering, first aid training and the fundamental values of Scouting. We took the opportunity to engage with members of the public and answer questions they had, communicating our appreciation of the experiences and skills given to us by being scouts.



It was a very successful event and we were proud to be ambassadors.

Alex Everatt - APL Buffaloes Patrol - First Pinelands Scout Troop



# tackling patterson's curse

13 October was an unlucky day for a colony of Patterson's Curse growing along the banks of the Elsieskraal River. Cubs from First and Third Pinelands packs, armed with gardening gloves and tools, descended on the infestation and made a valiant effort at eradicating this invasive plant species.



It was all part of a combined pack programme with an ecological twist. After a get-to-know-you activity ("Excuse me, are you left-handed?" was the question I had to field), cubs learned about invasive species in general, and Patterson's Curse in particular. Besides being poisonous to grazing animals, it irritates human skin due to the fine hairs on the stem and, like most invasive species, crowds out the indigenous populations. Its attractive pink-purple flowers are visited by a number of indigenous pollinators. Sticky seeds are carried around on animals and humans. The hardy underground root has to be pulled up too, all this making it difficult to eradicate. A rock-paper-scissors game biased towards the spread of the invader showed how quickly such a plant can take over.





The second half of the meeting was spent in the river reserve, with each six accompanied by two parents or scouters. There was the challenge of getting the plants out by their roots as well as removing the grass seeds from our socks so, as dusk darkened the sky, the cubs returned to the Third Pinelands hall for Grand Howl and another perfect set of memories.

Thanks to all the pack scouters and parents who joined in to make this a great experiential learning moment.

Norman Davies -  
Scout Group Leader - First  
Pinelands

Photo credits: APS

Jackie Welby-Solomon and parent Kate Warwick





# 4th claremont clivias

Two of our ten year old cubs were accompanied by SANBI conservation intern, Yandisa Ndzeko and Pack Scouter, Elton le Roux on a Community Greening excursion.



We planted ten clivias under a Wild Almond tree at the Good Shepherd Anglican church on the corner of Rhodes and Kirstenbosch drives on the morning of 7 September in the hope that the cubs would successfully complete their Leaping Wolf Badge requirements.

The time was well spent and the cubs learnt that gardening is no joke

and a new respect for the gardening profession. A big thank you to SANBI Kirstenbosch for donating the plants & compost for this endeavour.

Elton le Roux - Pack Scouter - 4th Claremont Pack



# 2nd bergvliet 60 years old

The strengths and traditions of 2nd Bergvliet Group are alive and thriving – as experienced by all who joined in the celebration of our 60th Birthday this year.

A unique “60 years of scouting” badge was commissioned and will be seen on our uniforms.

We celebrated with lots of cake – decorated with an image of the badge, good food, a raffle, and two games of Bingo – the first round for the younger members – meerkats and cubs, and the later, second round for everyone.

The huge pile of prizes was whittled down to the last chocolates before all the numbers had



been called in the second round.

We had some alumni join us, as well as our scouters, scouts, cubs and meerkats.

Our thanks to all who donated prizes, those who organised the celebration and all who joined us !

Brian Goemans - Scout Group Leader 2nd Bergvliet



# adult training 2023

The adult training year has been hectic and well attended this year, with plenty of opportunities for our adult leaders to gain their qualifications.



The Wood Badge courses run for Cub and Scout leaders were a great success, and we are looking forward to seeing the legacy projects unfolding over time.

The big regional push for all our leaders to be Warranted has seen a bumper attendance at Introduction to Adult Leader (IAL) and Warrant courses, with an extra IAL added on in the year to accommodate that demand.

Our Water Awareness course was offered remotely this year to participants in the Outeniqua district, and a fantastic hybrid format was implemented with the Outeniqua participants tuning in to the Sea Scout Base for the theory side of the course, and then doing the practical side hands-on with the district trainers. We also had two Outeniqua district trainers present remotely to an IAL course with the objective of attaining their ALT warrants (third beads). We look forward to continuing the work in developing the district training team there.

Peter Otzen - Regional Team Coordinator Adult Training

## scouting in schools

### **What is the Scouts in Schools Challenge Badge Programme? A Three-Year Journey**

Since its inception in 2017, the Scouts in Schools (SiS) Programme has undergone significant transformations. The program's journey began with a diverse team, including Paddy Milner, the then RC, Nimmy Abrahams, Alistair Clacherty, Siphon Ncapayi, and Ahmad Solomon, the project lead for SiS. This collaborative effort laid the foundation for what would become a pivotal initiative in the scouting community.

As the years progressed, numerous scouts contributed to programme development. In 2019, Daniel le Jeune and Ruth Wise took lead roles in crafting programs tailored to meet Scouts' advancement requirements. The programme's focus evolved, shifting from running both cub and scout programmes at high schools and primary schools to concentrating on primary schools, responding to the growing interest in Scouts over Cubs.





Under the leadership of Milly Siebrits, the CEO at the time, the SiS programme expanded to present scouting opportunities to all children in primary schools over a three-year cycle. The journey of a scout was refined with the intention of the Trail to Traveller, leading to the realization that challenge badge programs like the Covid Badge and later the Plastic Tide Turners were particularly effective during challenging times, such as the global pandemic.

### **The Challenge Badge Programme Overview**

The Challenge Badge Programme for Scouts in grades 4 to 6 spans a three-year cycle, providing a structured and progressive framework for personal development. Informed by the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), emphasizing the reality of literacy in a South African context, the programme aligns with the Scout Law and Promise while addressing the unique needs of learners.





Yearly Outlines:

**Year 1:**

- Membership
- Scouts go Solar (National Challenge)
- Safety
- Diversity

**Year 2:**

- Membership & Plastic Tide Turners
- Me and My Planet
- Safety around Water
- Champions for Nature

**Year 3 (Upcoming):**

- Membership and SDG 5 - Gender Equity Challenge
- Outdoor Challenge 1
- Outdoor Challenge 2
- Awareness Challenge

Upon completing the three-year cycle, Scouts are encouraged to transition to a community scout group in their area, fostering a sense of continuity and community engagement and adding to social cohesion.

The Western Cape Region remains committed to supporting existing groups and identifying opportunities for new ones in areas where the Scouts in Schools programme operates. For those interested in contributing to our initiatives or sponsoring Scouting in Schools districts and surrounding community development groups, please contact HQ.

Together, we continue to shape a programme that not only meets the needs of learners but also aligns with our vision for a thriving scouting community by having a scout group in every town and every community.

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader





# yeboneer bioblitz fun

Celebrating youth leadership! 42 Scout Yeboneers explored the wonders of SANParks Silvermine Nature Reserve during the Great Southern BioBlitz. Big thanks to our incredible partners, SANBI and CREW, for making this possible.

Creating tomorrow's leaders one adventure at a time!

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader

(Ed. This bioblitz involved countries from the southern hemisphere and required Yeboneers to photograph plants, insects, mammals, fungi, etc and upload using the iNaturalist phone app)





# sis tackling unemployment

## Empowering Youth and Tackling Unemployment in South Africa

As of the first quarter of 2023, South Africa faces a staggering unemployment rate of 32.9%, ranking among the highest in the world.

In response to this pressing issue, Scouts in Schools (SiS) has forged a strategic partnership with Year Beyond, aiming to not only decrease unemployment but also cultivate essential skills that empower young individuals to secure and retain meaningful employment, thereby charting their career development paths.

The programme specifically targets individuals between the ages of 18 and 25 who have a matric qualification but find themselves neither employed nor engaged in education or training (NEET).

These young participants undergo comprehensive training as adult leaders (IAL) over a period of 3 days, forming teams of three to deliver scout programmes at local schools for four days a week, managing two groups of 30 scouts.

This immersive experience ensures that the principles of the Scout Law and Promise become integral to their daily lives, guided by the methodology of scouting.

Beyond the scouting skills, the Year Beyond curriculum for these "Yeboneers" focuses on developing 12 key competencies:

1. Work Readiness
2. Effective Communication
3. Accountability
4. Self-Awareness
5. Resilience
6. Relationship Management
7. Initiative
8. Innovation
9. Goal Orientation
10. Facilitation
11. Learner Support
12. Community Mobilization



The recent graduation ceremony attended by our CEO Wayne du Plessis celebrated 111 Yeboneers from the Scout Year Beyond Programme, marking a pivotal moment as they transition into the next phase of their lives.

Armed with newfound confidence, some Yeboneers opt for internships and learnerships, others secure job opportunities, while many discover fields of study that captivate their interests.

Scouts and Year Beyond remain committed to not only reducing unemployment statistics but also fostering a generation of skilled and empowered individuals ready to make a positive impact on their communities and beyond.

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader



# Join the sis writing team

## Calling All Enthusiastic Volunteers! Join Our SiS Programme Writing Team!

Greetings from Scouting in Schools!!

Together with insights from our National team, we've carefully crafted a unique 3-year cycle for the Scouting in Schools Programme, tailored to meet the specific needs of learners in our schools. Excitingly, we've successfully written and implemented the first two years of this transformative initiative.

Now, we're thrilled to extend an invitation to our dedicated volunteers. We're seeking individuals who are ready to raise their hands and be a part of the program writing team, contributing to the development of programs for 2024. This is a chance for you to leave your mark on this exciting chapter in scouting!

Whether you're an eager scout, a seasoned senior, a student, or a rover—regardless of your background—we encourage you to step forward. We've secured funding for this venture, making it an even more rewarding opportunity.

If you're keen to step up and be part of this impactful journey, please don't hesitate to contact the Scouting in Schools Team. You can reach us via email at [ahmad.solomon@scouts.org.za](mailto:ahmad.solomon@scouts.org.za) or give me a call at 084 603 5182.

Your contribution can make a lasting difference. Let's create something extraordinary together!

### Year 1:

- Membership
- Scouts go Solar (National Challenge)
- Safety
- Diversity

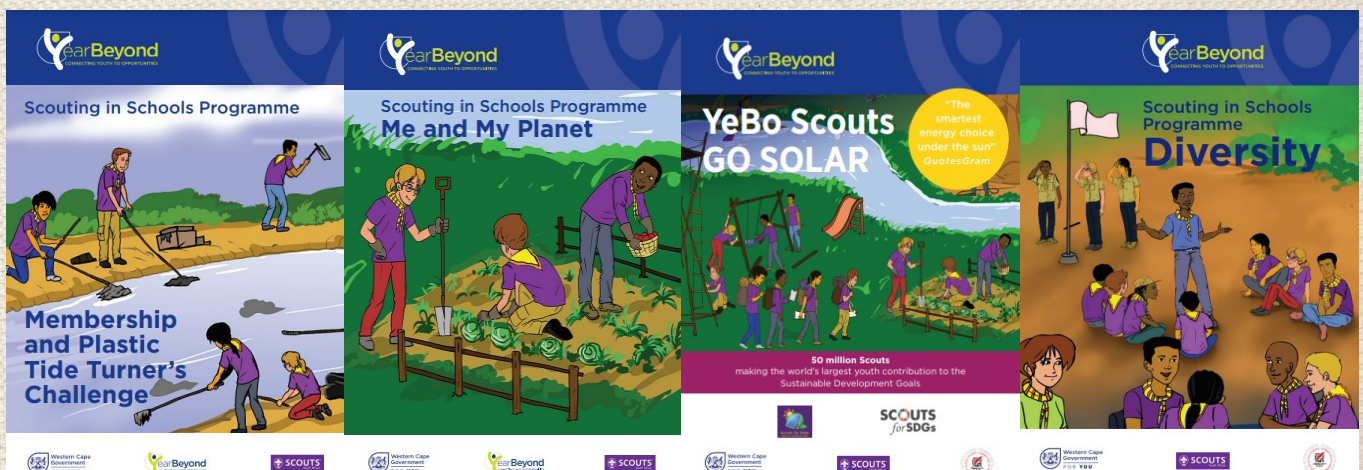
### Year 2:

- Membership & Plastic Tide Turners
- Me and My Planet
- Safety around Water
- Champions for Nature

**Year 3** - Next year will be the last year of our 3 year cycle:

- Membership & SDG 5 - Gender Equity Challenge
- Outdoor Challenge 1
- Outdoor Challenge 2
- Awareness Challenge

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader





# **silk leadership**

## **Inspiring Social Innovation through the SILC 2023 Leadership Curriculum**

The Social Innovation Leadership Curriculum (SILC) 2023, a pivotal component of the Future Fit Programme, has successfully sparked creativity and problem-solving among participating teams. This team-based initiative aims to address an annual challenge, fostering the development of workplace skills and providing a platform for young individuals to discover a deeper sense of purpose amidst their daily challenges.

SILC not only cultivates leadership skills but also serves as a catalyst for innovation, critical thinking, and the creation of sustainable solutions. The process unfolds over a six-week period, during which teams receive feedback, allowing them to refine and improve their pitches.

Social innovation, a central theme of SILC, involves the creation, development, and implementation of inventive ideas and strategies to tackle social issues across various sectors such as education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability.

Throughout the years, Yeboneers have tackled numerous pertinent challenges, and this year was no exception. The specific challenge for this year was centred around encouraging young people to vote, a topic of significant societal importance.



Yeboneers form teams consisting of 4 to 8 members from diverse areas across the province. In the initial round, 258 teams underwent review, with 57 teams progressing to the second round. Notably, 7 teams hailed from Scouting in Schools, including a team from George.

Distinguished judges, representing diverse backgrounds, meticulously evaluated the teams, narrowing down the top 13. Remarkably, 2 of these

top teams were from Scouting in Schools in Khayelitsha. Anticipation rose within the scouting fraternity as the top 3 teams were revealed.

In an outstanding achievement, the Titans from Khayelitsha, guided by their mentor Anelisa Kama, secured the second place. This triumph is not only a testament to the dedication of the team but also a commendation for Scouting in Schools and the community of Khayelitsha. Heartfelt congratulations to them on this well-deserved success.

As SILC continues to inspire and nurture social innovation, it reinforces the transformative impact that youth-led initiatives can have on addressing pressing social challenges.

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader



# 10 years at hawequas

Kuba Miszewski is congratulated and thanked for looking after Hawequas and being on site for 10 years this month (December 2023). Improvements that have happened in these 10 years are:

- The development of 24 campsites in the Forest.
- The construction of a new sturdy bridge over the Spruit River.
- The upgrading of the Robert Hall facility.
- The purchase of two vehicles for Hawequas.
- The owning a fire fighting bakkie sakkie.
- The building of the Adirondack shelter.
- The construction of the of the North and South Circular hiking trails.
- The construction of the Ropes Course.
- The Buchu project which seeks to ensure Hawequas financial sustainability.
- The setting up of the memorial garden above the Ole Schreuder house.
- The formalising of building plans with the Drankenstein Municipality.
- The construction of the Terrace Ablution Block.
- General maintenance at Hawequas.



- Building positive relationships with local farmers and communities.

Kuba has looked after the interests of Hawequas. It must of be course be borne in mind that Kuba has been able to work in a team with most valuable support from our previous Regional Commissioner, Paddy Milner and our previous Property Representative, Aussi Raad.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter



# lifesaver badge course

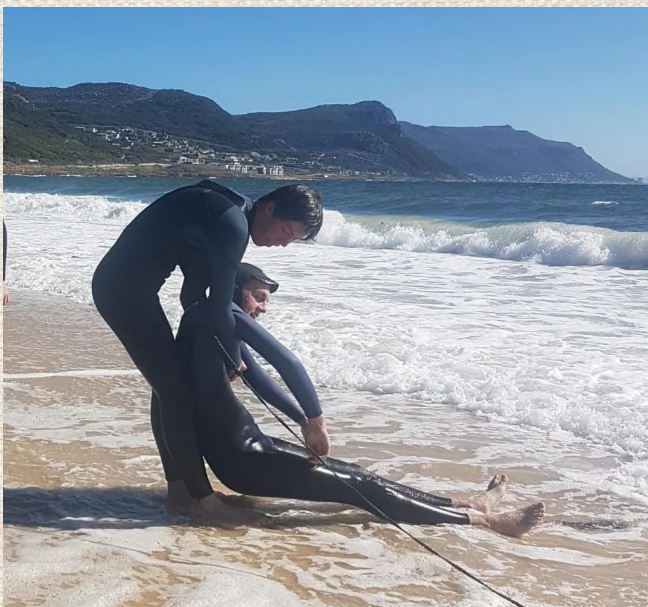
On the weekend, 24 Scouts spent many hours in the water, braving the wind chill factor, learning skills on the second Lifesaving Interest Badge course for this year. On the first day they were introduced to some of the techniques at a school pool and on the second day they were put to the test in the relatively big wind generated surf at Long Beach, Simonstown.



The Scouts learned that the most important factor is not to put yourself as a potential rescuer in danger, and they practiced Reaching, Throwing, and lastly Rowing/Towing assists. These Scouts have now had much practice using the torpedo lifebuoys (such as the pink rescue buoys in most public swimming areas), and throwing a lifeline to someone in trouble. They also practiced using the kneeboards to bring someone back to shore (very difficult in the surf). Whilst they are not qualified lifesavers at this stage, we hope that by the fun they had today, some will be inspired to take this training further with specialist community rescue organisations.

Our thanks to Kyle for sharing his lifesaving skills with us, and Robbie for coordinating the course.

Carol Wannenburg - Assistant Troop Scouter 1st Fish Hoek





# paint helderberg/lion purple

In October 2023 both the Lion and the Helderberg were painted in purple on the last Thursday of October.

Western Cape Scouts are visible to the public!





# hawequas mammal wildlife

In my 10 years at Hawequas, I have been trying to get a sighting of a Cape Leopard that has been seen on one of our neighbours' farms. We have seen leopard scat and prints but to this day have not managed to get a photo! We are lucky to have a wildlife trapping camera from the Leopard Trust, which will be operational again next year.

Have a look at the great pictures we have of some of the wildlife living on Hawequas! Most of you have seen our baboons but there is a lot more and often watching you!

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Manager



Cape Genet



Cape Baboon



Cape Hare



Cape Caracal



Cape Duiker



Southern Porcupine



# cook badge course



The Cook Interest course was run twice this year due to the overwhelming participation request.

The course was run at Hawequas from Friday night to Sunday afternoon.

Revision of the Cook Manual was done on Friday night and then evaluation on Safety, Cooking methods, food storage and culinary terms etc.

A significant focus of the course is on Dutch Oven cooking techniques.

Participants learn to prepare delicious meals using coals, mastering the art of controlling heat and creating tasty dishes with minimal resources.

This skill is particularly valuable for those interested in camping and outdoor activities.



Teamwork is a key aspect of the weekend Cooking Course.

Participants engage in collaborative cooking sessions, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie in their patrols.

Sharing tasks, coordinating timings, and collectively preparing meals enhance both culinary skills and interpersonal connections.

The Scouts learn how to control the heat in a Dutch Oven, carve a whole Chicken, make a few fancy items (like 'spring rolls, bake a cake, Zucchini fritters and more) which can all be done on camp or at home.

To run such a course requires a lot of dedication from the Staff, I say thank you to each staff member that assisted on Cook Interest Courses.

Terrance Ievers - Course Leader



# hawk-eye trophy

## Mission Impossible



The annual Hawkeye Rover Competition took place on 25 November. Embracing the Mission Impossible theme, several teams of secret agents posing as rovers embarked on a thrilling journey, navigating through a series of clues, side missions, and challenges, all with the crucial objective

of unearthing and preventing a secret plot to detonate a bomb in Cape Town.

The race kicked off in Green Point where teams received their initial set of clues and instructions. Starting with locating a secret drop-off at the Green Point stadium the clues lead the secret agents on a series of missions around Cape Town which included constructing a scaled model of the Lighthouse and decoding a complex riddle using The Maria de la Queillerie Statue which lead teams to hike across Table Mountain and explore Queens Block House, Kings Block House, and Woodstock Cave. Thankfully the weary agents received some reprieve at the next challenge which involved speed-eating a tub of yummy ice cream at the Creamery in Newlands (I can recommend the Honeycomb Crunch flavour). The next few missions had secret agents racing around to several different scout halls before locating the final destination, 4th Claremont Scout hall. Here the mission came to an end when we were able to successfully diffuse the bomb and save Cape Town.



Throughout the competition, rovers engaged in a variety of side missions, including smuggling messages in soap bars and weapons disguised as cake. The secret agents demonstrated their spy skills through parkour chases, dramatic run scenes, catching spies and spy-themed photo shoots. Additionally, we participated in some community service and fostered international relations by making someone's day.



Massive thanks to Darren van Gool and his team for orchestrating such a thrilling and well-organised event! Well done to all of the teams who participated. Our two teams from 6th Rondebosch Rover Crew managed to claim 1st and 3rd place and so we took home the

coveted Hawkeye trophy once again. Looking forward to next year's challenges!

Vivienne Banks - 6th Rondebosch Rovers



# region's rands and cents



The 2023 Financial Year (12 months ending 30 September 2023) left the Western Cape Region in a sound financial position, thanks to excellent management on the part of all the regional teams and properties. A vital contribution to the financial stability of the region is the income generated from annual subscriptions, almost all of which were paid in full and on-time. This is a vital cog in the wheel of our regional functioning. We ended up with an operation surplus slightly above the end of the previous year, almost all of which was used to fund the important capital project of completing the Terrace Ablutions at Hawequas.

We are looking forward to another successful year in 2024, where we will once again seek to provide high quality scouting to our youth and adult members, continue to maintain and improve our properties and further build our reserves for future capital projects.

The financial oversight of the Region, including liaising with groups and fundraising is a vital support function carried out in the background. This oversight, which overlaps with our property management, is best run by a small team. If you, or anyone you know, has an interest or aptitude for systems, administration or finance and would be willing to assist in some capacity, please contact me.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joy-filled festive season.

Fr Charles Prince - Finance Representative

## 1st naruna & constantia cubs

Wow: What an amazing year of fun out Pack has had!

- JAN 2023 - Hike in Newlands Forest – learning about Invasive Species part of this year's National Challenge.

- MARCH 2023 - Litter clean up of the area around our hall - Cubs

who attended this were awarded the Litterless badges.

- MARCH 2023 - Meeting our Scouts at Kontiki - a highlight was the Cubs going onto their raft and watching them launch.

- MAY 2023 - Hike from Appleton Scout camp to Signal Hill to hear the Noon Day gun.







- MAY 2023 - our annual Pack camp - Theme WILD WILD WEST -

- JUNE 2023 - We joined 1st Ottery Cub Pack for a Joint Pack Meeting.

- JUNE 2023 - Wynberg Fire Station - the siren went off while the cubs were there, they saw how quickly the firemen get dressed and the fire

trucks go out. They were also fascinated by a Pink Fire Truck.

- JUNE 2023 - Winter fun challenge - our whole group took part - Cubs, Scouts and parents - was loads of laughter.

- JULY 2023 - Outing to Kirstenbosch Gardens - did an exploration trail - the highlight was the Cubs having to find a plant that looks like a tortoise in the conservatory and find out what part of the plant is edible.



- AUGUST 2023 - We did a hike to Ridge Beacon in Fish Hoek.

- AUGUST 2023 - Visited Iziko Cape Town Museum - the Cubs had to do a treasure hunt and look for various answers and take pictures - the highlight was the "JAWS".

- OCTOBER 2023 - Walk from Sea Scout Base in Lakeside to Muizenberg beach and did a litter clean up. The wind was very strong but we all made it.

- NOVEMBER 2023 - We did something that we have never done before, a fun pack zoom meeting with 1st Cambridge in East London. Each cub from the two packs got to ask each other questions and learn about each other.





In our pack meetings we did some fun things as well.

- Learning about SA Traditional foods and tasting them. It was fun watching to see if the Cubs enjoyed the various kinds of food.
- Learning about germs – making their own ones with marshmallows.
- Cooking marshmallows over a peanut - The cubs loved this and were amazed at how long one peanut can burn.
- Then of course we had a "GO BOKKE" pack meeting.

Julia Myburgh - Pack Scouter 1st Naruna and Constantia.





# tea party for senior citizens



In 1982 the scouters of Constantiaberg District started a Christmas tea party for our senior citizens, in response to the declared Int'l year of the aged that year.

The party has continued annually, only interrupted by covid in 2020 and 2021.

The majority of our guests came from the scouting community and are testimony to the fact that friendships formed in scouting last a life time.

This was especially evident after the 2 year covid break where many of our guests had moved and we had to rely on those we could contact, to reach others.

Our oldest guest this year, was Mrs Hele, long-standing committee member of 1st Constantia.

We were blessed in 2017 to have 4 generations of Sasman scouts together, when Gilly's grandmother attended the party.

Sue Viljoen - Organiser of Party





# orienteering competition

The Orienteering competition was recently run and the results of the top teams follows:

Senior 1 1st Muizenberg  
Senior 2 1st Durbanville  
Senior 3 2nd Fish Hoek  
Junior 1 2nd Rondebosch  
Junior 2 1st Muizenberg  
Junior 3 2nd Fish Hoek  
Adult 1 1st Durbanville  
Adult 2 1st Strand  
Adult 3 Fish Hoek Guides



Congratulations to 1st Muizenberg for winning the overall competition.





# 1st belhar in action

On Saturday, 26th August 2023, our cubs and scouts visited the Iziko Museum. Much fun and education was experienced by everyone in attendance.

On Saturday 7th October 2023 our scouts Erin Schoeman, Aidan Nissen and Jordan Leaner responded to the appeal by assisting in the eradication of alien vegetation at our Hawequas campsite. A job well done!

On Saturday 11th November 2023, scouts and cubs from 1st Belhar successfully participated in the Trash Bash event held at Muizenberg beach and organised by the Two Oceans Aquarium. Several bags of trash containing straws, cigarette butts, bottle tops, sweets and plastic packets were collected and we proudly contributed to a less polluted ocean.

1st Belhar Scouts Aidan Nissen and Jordan Leaner successfully participated in an international Coding Competition which was held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at our local Belhar library. In attendance were 21 Countries which consisted of 55 Teams. These 2 scouts formed part of the 5 member Belhar Team. They were placed 6th place overall and we are so proud of their achievement!

Aidan Nissen "That coding competition was such a blast! It really created some unforgettable memories. I'll never forget the excitement and fun we had working on those coding challenges."

Jordan Leaner "I was excited because I knew I was representing South Africa. I overcame my nerves and gave it my all. We attained 6th place out of 22 teams, and we concluded that coding can take you far in life."

Lillian Layman - Pack Scouter 1st Belhar





# 2nd plumstead 90 years old



On the 22nd on June 2023 celebrated 90 years of scouting and in true Sea scout fashion, a fun sailing day was held at the Sea scout base on Saturday 24 June 2023, with Scouts, Scouters and family Members enjoying time on the water. This was followed by Braai and birthday cake. This was just the start of the celebration, with a black tie event held on the Saturday 09 December.

This was a truly outstanding event, with

Guest including Scouts CEO, Wayne Du Plessis, Regional Commissioner Nimmy Abrahams, previous Sea Scouts Base Chair Gerrie Buckley, Previous Scouters and committee members. The event was opened by Gilly Sasman (SGL with and moment of silence remembering all the previous Scouters, Committee members and Family Members that have all contributed to scouting at 2nd Plumstead. This followed by a speech by the Gilly Sasman (SGL), Nimmy Abrahams (Regional Commissioner), Caryn Behrmann (Pack Scouter) and Kyle Sasman (Troop Scouter).

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Extract from Kyle's Speech

"What does YB Normal stand for?"

Now it is my belief that YBN does not just stand for "do things differently". I think it stands for way more. I think it's a maximum for a Second Plumstead way of life.





Now to everybody I think it could mean something different but to me is about doing and fighting for what's right, doing it your way and have lots of fun. So when you get a chance, think about what your YBNormal means. Scouts if there is one thing we learn night it's that the haters gonna hate hate hate hate hate and the the players gonna play play play and I just

wanna  
shake  
shake  
shake  
shake it  
off shake  
it off.



Everyone  
enjoyed a  
3 course  
meal. The  
photo  
booth  
was a big  
hit, many

thanks to Roger. The music and the party continued until late at night. The story goes that Hannah, Taryn and Chelsey still had their high heels on at the closing parade at the final regatta on the Sunday.

A big thanks to everyone who made this a night magical.

Gilly Sasman - Scout Group Leader





# burrowing up to cubs



The natural progression for a Meerkat after two years in the Den is to Burrow Up to Cubs. It is a joyful yet solemn ceremony. Some Meerkats (but not all) achieve the highest award, the Meerkat Gold Star, and they feel a huge sense of achievement as well. This year, we asked our Meerkats to write down their experiences. One, Thomas du Toit, aged 6 nearly 7, wrote the following. It gives an inside glimpse to the life of a Meerkat.

"I loved being a Meerkat. I enjoyed working on all the badges and learning how to do things better and by myself. I learnt how to use a compass, how to look after my body, how to cook on a real fire. I also learnt about Meerkats in other countries, about safety, and how to Stand Tall. Standing Tall

is doing my best, helping others, being kind and respectful.

I really liked doing my Inventor badge and my Treasure Keeper badge. The hardest badges for me was my Gold Frog Swimming badge, my Musician badge and my Reading badge. I was really really really proud of myself when I got my Gold Star.



I enjoyed being a Lookout where I got to help newer Meerkats learn things. I really enjoyed both the camps that I went on. They were both very fun! I liked doing both the City Nature Challenge. I enjoyed learning from the different leaders like Galago, Fox, Rafiki, Otter

and Duiker."



The Meerkat Programme requires children to earn 16 of 18 Challenge badges and 8 of 31 Interest Badges. The badges are sewn onto the hats, and as you can see in the photos, some of the high achievers run out of space towards the end! Thomas was one of those. We are proud of his wide interests and the sense of self-worth that he gained and will carry with him as he continues his Scouting Journey.

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter 1st Claremont



# 1st claremont meerkat camp



As November approaches, our Meerkats seem to know – it's Camp time! Together with parents and Cub siblings, we drove down to Glencairn and entered the fantasy world of Brownsēa Island. The theme for the National Camp is set each year and Meerkat Dens all over the country follow the same programme of activities. This year's was a winner.

For many it was their first night under canvas (with their parents, of course) and even their first outside campfire. The favourite activities including making and blowing kudu horns, making and firing catapults, scavenger hunts, nature rambles and roaming freely in a wide-open space. Pancakes at 7am were once again a hit. As we got ready to leave, one little Meerkat shouted "Snake!" and there was a very long, large mole snake, trying its best to get away from the gathering throng.



A weekend to remember for a long time.

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter 1st Claremont





# quinn trophy



1st  
place -  
3rd

Pinelands A; 2nd place - 3rd Pinelands B; 3rd place - 2nd Plumstead

Womb to Tomb Development Centre, in partnership with YearBeyond, and Scouting

## womb to the tomb

in Schools, embarked on a journey to introduce Scouting in Schools at 8 primary schools in George.

The year started off with the investiture ceremony of the new mentors at Signal Hill, Cape Town, and a successful hike on Lions Head. This ensured the training of our mentor, Carien, as she prepared herself to take on the challenge of this new programme in George.



The new YeBoneers first completed a week of Orientation. This followed with the investiture by our mentor, Carien, under the leadership of Ahmed and Nimmy, after completion of the technical training.

The YeBoneers were introduced at the various schools working with Grades 5 and 6 learners. There was much excitement by YeBoneers,

Mentor, learners and the school leaderships. At the end of Term one, we had a successful holiday programme in 6 different communities. The theme was Tide Turner. We ended the term with a cleanup sponsored by Henque Waste with bags for the different communities. It was fun and very educational.



The George Scouts in school team also had an opportunity to join the Rover Scout's group in a community project in making sandwiches at the Food Pantry. These sandwiches were distributed in Touwsrante and Wilderness to disadvantaged communities. This followed a fun day at the beach of Glentana and the teamwork was greatly enjoyed by all.



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In July we had the privilege to have Roshaan and Anelisa (fellow scouts mentors), to give us midyear technical training, which was a great success and gave YeBoneers some renewed energy to finish the year strong. Our YeBoneers had the experience for a sleepover. Here they were taught to make pressure packs and s'mores. This was a first time experience for many and once again team building was the highlight of the

sleepover.

The annual YearBeyond Conference at UWC was the highlight of the year. The George Scouting in Schools YeBoneers had the opportunity of meeting the rest of the Scouting in Schools YeBoneers across the province. The trip in the bus was electric, and the few days will remain as an unforgettable experience to many.

To build their competencies and experience for the World of Work, we had practice interviews at various companies. A local company offered 50 learnership and employment opportunities for 2024, and 8 of our Scouting YeBoneers were successful.

The year ended with a formal Graduation ceremony and the YeBoneers had the opportunity to end their year with a bang.

We would like to thank Scouting in Schools for the confidence they had in Womb to Tomb Development Centre, and entrusted this programme with us. This year was great, and many lessons were learnt. The schools appreciated the programme, and to date, we have 5 more schools, wanting the programme.

We are excited about 2024 and we know that with all the experiences we have endured, we will grow and make 2024 another bumper year.

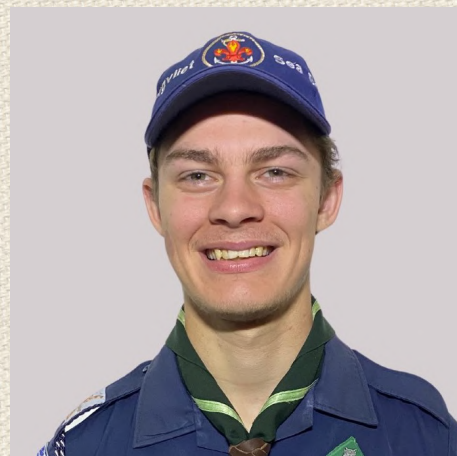
Debbie Bruce - Chairperson





# springbok scouts

We congratulate our very latest Springbok Scouts



Kate Biggs - 1st Blaauwberg

Daniel Williams - 1st Bergvliet

Membership	Traveller	Discoverer	First Class	Springbok
"I have just joined the Troop" Learn about the Scout <b>Promise</b> and <b>Law</b> , and Scouting background.	"I am Learning to be a Scout" Learn what it means to be a Scout, and learn new skills.	"I am Learning to be an APL" Be involved with your Patrol and Troop, sharpen your Scouting Skills.	"I am Learning to be a PL" Become a well-rounded Scout and citizen.	"I am a Leader of Scouts!" Lead your Patrol and Troop on a number of projects that challenge you.

## regional contact list

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